

## Message Text

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20

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 038828

R 200915Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2988

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT CAIRO

AMCONGEN DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

SECDEF

S E C R E T SECTION ONE OF 2 SANAA 2223

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, EG, IR, JO, SA, TC, UR, US, YE

SUBJ: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YAR

DHAHRAN FOR CHUSMTM

SECDEF FOR ISA

DEPT PASS CINCEUR

1. SUMMARY: YARG COMMANDER IN CHIEF, COL. MUHAMMAD AL-IRYANI, EXPRESSES APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTIVE US ROLE BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAELIS; IS PLEASED THAT US-YEMENI RELATIONS EMERGED UNDISTURBED AND WARM. WITH WAR OVER, YARG ANXIOUS GET BACK TO WORK ON KEY NATIONAL ISSUE OF BUILDING AN ADEQUATE DEFENSE. FIRST PRIORITY IS TO GET ON WITH US ARMS SHIPMENT VIA SAUDI ARABIA FINANCED BY ABU DHABI. AGREEMENT WITH SHAIKH ZAYID IS FIRM. AS SOON AS ARRANGEMENTS FOR US SHIPMENT COMPLETED, YARG WILL GO AFTER MULTI-YEAR FUND-SECRET

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ING, EITHER FROM SAG OR ADG, FOR THAT PORTION OF JORDANIAN TRAINING OFFER WHICH JORDAN UNABLE TO FINANCE. ON DOLS 90 MILLION ARMS PACKAGE WHICH EGYPT HAD BEFORE WAR AGREED TO RELEASE TO YEMEN TO BE FINANCED BY SAG, WAR

HAD NATURALLY INTERFERED. YARG HAD NOT FELT IT POLITE ASK EGYPT WHERE THIS MATTER STANDS BUT WILL NOW PROBE WITH SAUDIS. YARG OFFICER IN CHARGE OF MILITARY TRAINING CURRENTLY VISITING IRAN AT INVITATION OF IIG TO DISCUSS TRAINING POSSIBILITIES IN IRAN. PARTIAL DELIVERY HAS TAKEN PLACE OF LONG-PROMISED SOVIET "TOKEN" PACKAGE OF MILITARY SPARES. YARG'S PARTICIPATION IN BAB EL MANDEB BLOCKADE OF ISRAELI SHIPPING CONSISTS OF FOOT PATORLS ALONG STRETCH OF COASTLINE ADJACENT TO STRAITS. ACTION REQUESTED: TRANSMITTAL TO EMBASSY OF DOD LETTER OF OFFER COVERING FMS SALE TO YARG AS SOON AS FONOFF CONFIRMATION OF ABU DHABI FINANCING RECEIVED. END

2. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON YARG COMMANDER IN CHIEF COL. MUHAMMAD AL-IRYANI NOVEMBER 18. AMBASSADOR REVIEWED US DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES DURING FOURTH ARAB-ISRAELI WAR AND NOTED THAT DESPITE ANTICIPATED SIZEABLE DIFFICULTIES USG COMMITTED TO ASSIST PARTIES REACH AN EQUITABLE FINAL SETTLEMENT DERIVING FROM RES 242. US GRATIFIED THAT THANKS TO FULL COOPERATION OF YARG, US-YAR RELATIONS HAVE EMERGED FROM WAR INTACT. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WITH WAR BEHIND US HE WISHED REVIEW WITH CIC STATUS OF SEVERAL ASPECTS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YARG WHICH HAD BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION BEFORE OCTOBER 6. HE ENUMERATED THESE.

3. ON ARAB-ISRAEL WAR, COL. IRYANI SAID US RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL HAD CREATED DIFFICULT MOMENTS FOR AMERICA'S FRIENDS IN ARAB WORLD. FORTUNATELY, VIGOROUS AND EQUITABLE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP IN BRINGING ABOUT CEASEFIRE AND CREATING BASIS FOR FUTURE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS HAD RESTORED A GENERALLY GOOD ATMOSPHERE IN US-ARAB RELATIONS. YARG'S OBJECTIVE FROM OUTSET HAD BEEN TO PRESERVE ITS TIES OF FRIENDSHIP WITH US. HAPPILY FOR BOTH SIDES, OBJECTIVE HAD BEEN REALIZED. THERE HAD BEEN NO INTERRUPTION OF THE US ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS WHICH SO IMPORTANT TO YAR. RESUMED DISCUSSION OF SEVERAL  
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FACETS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YARG TIMELY. CREATION OF AN ADEQUATE DEFENSE FOR NORTH YEMEN AGAINST CONTINUOUSLY SOVIET-SUPPLIED, EXPANSIONIST PDRY REMAINED A NATIONAL IMPERATIVE. IN THIS FIELD, RESULTS OF US LEADERSHIP IN HELPING PULL TOGETHER AREA ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN SINCE JULY 1972 RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS REMAINED FRANKLY DISAPPOINTING IN RELATION YEMEN'S NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS. EARLY CONCLUSION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR US FMS SALE SHOULD BE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS.

4. DISCUSSING IN DETAIL THE STATUS OF YARG'S REQUEST FOR US ARMS SALE THROUGH SAUDI ARABIA AND FINANCED BY ABU DHABI, AMBASSADOR NOTED THERE IS A JUSTIFIABLE

FEELING WITHIN USG THAT YEMEN HAS NOT CARRIED ITS SHARE OF THE DIPLOMATIC LOAD. WHEN YEMEN ASKED US FOR EMERGENCY ARMS EARLY THIS SUMMER, USG SAID YES PROVIDED YARG TOOK THE LEAD IN WORKING OUT FINANCING WITH ADG. IN FACT, WE HAD BEEN OBLIGED HELP ON THAT ASPECT. YARG HAD NOT FOLLOWED THROUGH.

5. COL. IRYANI REPLIED HE AWARE OF EMBASSY'S SEVERAL ADMONITIONS TO FONOFF ON ABU DHABI FINANCING. YARG MILITARY HAD PUSHED CIVILIAN LEADERS HARD, EVEN DURING THE WAR. AS A RESULT, YARG HAD RECEIVED FIRM AND SPECIFIC ASSURANCES OF SHAIKH ZAYID'S WILLINGNESS TO FINANCE US ARMS DELIVERY, BOTH IN ABU DHABI AND IN SANAA THROUGH UAE AMBASSADOR TO PRIMIN HAJRI. (THIS CONFIRMED TO US BY UAE AMBASSADOR - SANAA 2194). CIC ASKED THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR US DELIVERY BE CONCLUDED SOONEST.

6. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT IF FONOFF COULD CONFIRM ABU DHABI FINANCING TO HIM IN SPECIFIC TERMS, HE PREPARED RECOMMEND THAT USG FORWARD LETTER OF OFFER FOR NEGOTIATION HERE.

7. ON JORDANIAN ASPECT, COL. IRYANI SAID HE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR MUSTAFA. YARG GRATIFIED BY RESPONSIVENESS OF JORDAN. ARRIVAL OF FIRST, 16-MAN JORDANIAN TRAINING TEAM FOR SALADIN ARMORED CARS, COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGINEERING SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 19. (AMBASSADOR MUSTAFA HAD SO INDICATED TO SECRET

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US EARLIER.) YARG INTENDED APPROACH SAG AND ADG ("ALTHOUGH LATTER MUCH EASIER TO DEAL WITH") ON FINANCING THAT PORTION OF JORDANIAN TRAINING PROGRAM (AMMAN 5149/5189, 5213) WITH GOJ UNABLE HANDLE FINANCIALLY, BUT AFTER ARRANGEMENTS FOR US SALE CONCLUDED.

8. AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT JORDANIAN PROGRAM FOR MILITARY, EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE, WHILE MODEST, WAS SOUNDLY CONCEIVED AND COULD BE VERY HELPFUL.

SECRET

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AMMAN  
CAIRO  
AMCONGEN DHAHRAN  
JIDDA  
KUWAIT  
LONDON

MOSCOW  
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